

Research Database: About Knowledge(s) on Nature in Latin America

D.5.4

Deliverable D 5.4 – Research database: *About Knowledge(s) on Nature in Latin America*

Project N°: 266710

Funding Scheme: Collaborative Project

Objective: FP7-SSH-2010-3

Status: Final version, XX/XX/2014

Due date of delivery: 30/11/2013

Work Package: WP 5– Building and Exchanging knowledge(s) on Natural Resources (BEKONAL)

Leading Authors: Mina Kleiche-Dray (IRD, France), Hugo Viciano (IRD, France)

Co-author(s): Laurence Goury (IRD, France), Frédérique Jankowski (CIRAD, France)



This Project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No.266710.

Table of contents

1. General description	2
2. Online access	3
3. How to use it	4

1. General description

The research database *About Knowledge(s) on Nature in Latin America* is a research tool that incorporates more than one thousand references on different forms of knowledge on Nature in Latin America, as well as on the social and political legitimation of these forms of knowledge.

The database is built within the Mendeley environment. Mendeley is a desktop and web tool that serves as reference manager and is one of the largest research databases of science due to its collaborative nature.

Described as science's *Spotify*, Mendeley's interface supports our collection of research papers by providing it with links and recommendations to other research papers. Mendeley thus makes use of crowdsourced information given by the researchers who have uploaded documents to its massive cloud repository. This information includes summary statistics such as number of readers, and for certain documents, which paragraphs have been most highlighted by the readers.

Our research database is a compilation of those articles recommended by members of the WP5-BEKONAL in relation to the subject of different forms of knowledge on Nature in Latin America. Thanks to the cross-disciplinary nature of Mendeley the database offers content-based recommendations on further research studies. Needless to say, this content-based cross-disciplinary aspect is especially suited for the study of the interactions of different forms of knowledge on natural resources.

The Mendeley environment allows navigating through research articles through semantic tags. Tags are like keywords, except that they are defined by the users and not the authors of papers. In the research database: *About Knowledge(s) on Nature in Latin America* we have included tags that relate to subject areas (such as, for instance, "traditional knowledge", "agriculture", "indigenous communities", "science, society, and technology", "biodiversity", "scientometrics", etc.) When possible, field studies have also been georeferenced with geographic tags as well. This allows navigating through similar studies carried on the same geographic area.

2. Online access

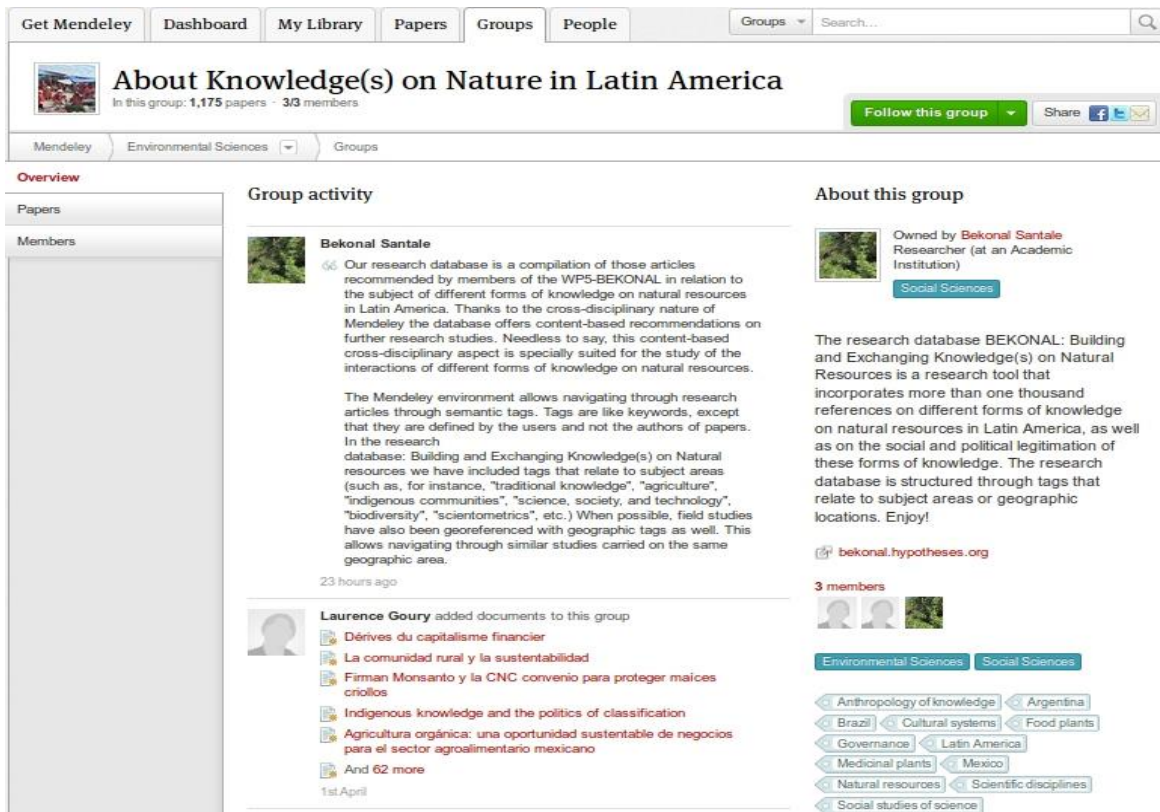
The database is accessible online at:

<http://www.mendeley.com/groups/2252671/>

You can also visit it through the access provided by the ENGOV website, www.engov.eu

3. How to use it

The research database is easily accessible to everyone on the internet. Anyone wanting to search and find new references in the research on knowledge of natural resources in Latin America may use it through the Mendeley browser. The following screenshot presents the general aspect of the main webpage. It includes the latest activity, which can be used to present new research but also to announce events of special relevance in the area (such as workshops, conferences and other events).



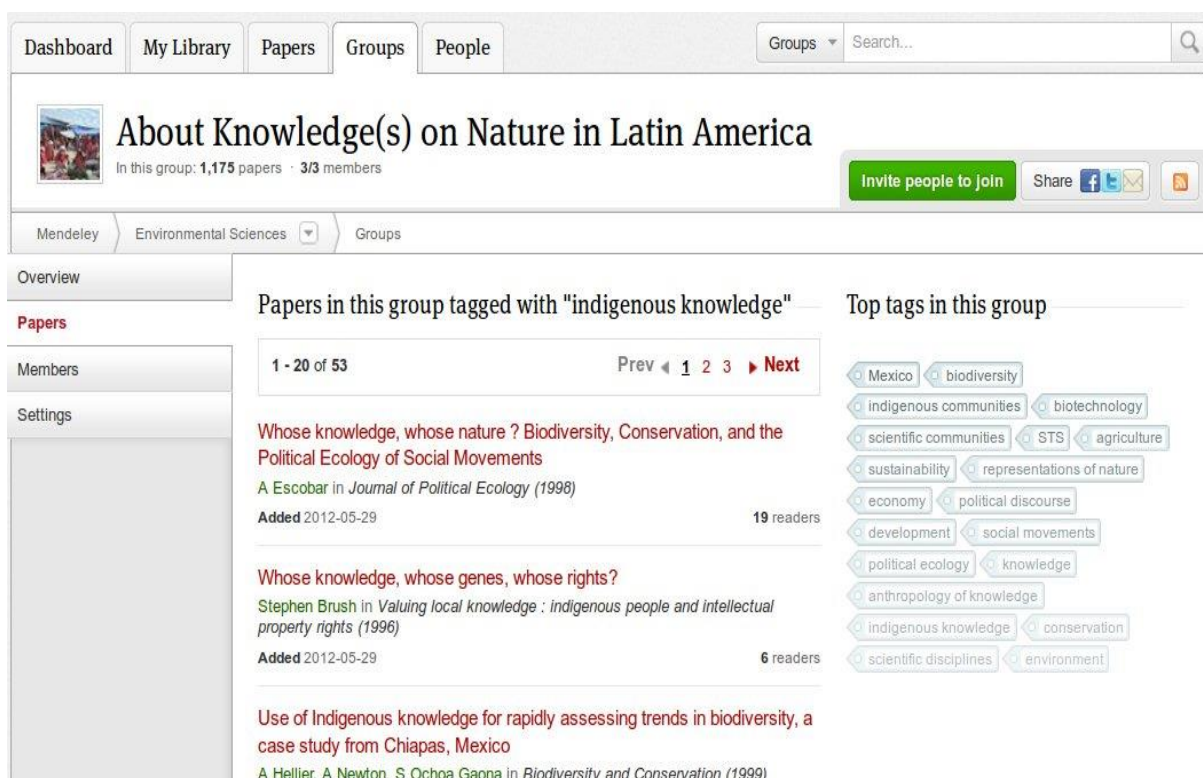
The screenshot shows the Mendeley group page for "About Knowledge(s) on Nature in Latin America". The page has a navigation bar with tabs: Get Mendeley, Dashboard, My Library, Papers, Groups, and People. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is divided into three sections: Overview, Group activity, and About this group.

Overview: The group has 1,175 papers and 3/3 members. The left sidebar shows tabs for Papers and Members.

Group activity: A post by Bekonal Santale, dated 23 hours ago, describes the research database. It mentions that the database is a compilation of articles recommended by members of the WP5-BEKNAL in relation to the subject of different forms of knowledge on natural resources in Latin America. The post also mentions that the Mendeley environment allows navigating through research articles through semantic tags. Below the post, there is a list of documents added by Laurence Goury, including "Dérives du capitalisme financier", "La comunidad rural y la sustentabilidad", "Firman Monsanto y la CNC convenio para proteger maíces criollos", "Indigenous knowledge and the politics of classification", and "Agricultura orgánica: una oportunidad sustentable de negocios para el sector agroalimentario mexicano".

About this group: The group is owned by Bekonal Santale, a researcher at an Academic Institution. The description states that the research database BEKNAL: Building and Exchanging Knowledge(s) on Natural Resources is a research tool that incorporates more than one thousand references on different forms of knowledge on natural resources in Latin America, as well as on the social and political legitimization of these forms of knowledge. The research database is structured through tags that relate to subject areas or geographic locations. The page also shows a list of tags: Anthropology of knowledge, Argentina, Brazil, Cultural systems, Food plants, Governance, Latin America, Medicinal plants, Mexico, Natural resources, Scientific disciplines, and Social studies of science.

Apart from the main webpage, which can be used as a blog to post relevant news, the most interesting part is on the "papers" section. You can access this section by clicking on the "papers" icon on the left side of the page. Once there, you have direct access to the last uploaded papers as well as the 20 main semantic tags in the collection. The tags are located on the right side of the page.



The screenshot shows the Mendeley web interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Library, Papers, Groups, and People. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation, the main header area displays the group name 'About Knowledge(s) on Nature in Latin America' with a small profile picture, the text 'In this group: 1,175 papers · 3/3 members', and buttons for 'Invite people to join' and 'Share' with social media icons. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Mendeley', 'Environmental Sciences', and 'Groups'. The left sidebar contains links for 'Overview', 'Papers', 'Members', and 'Settings'. The main content area is titled 'Papers in this group tagged with "indigenous knowledge"' and shows a list of papers. The first paper is 'Whose knowledge, whose nature ? Biodiversity, Conservation, and the Political Ecology of Social Movements' by A Escobar, published in 1998, with 19 readers. The second paper is 'Whose knowledge, whose genes, whose rights?' by Stephen Brush, published in 1996, with 6 readers. The third paper is 'Use of Indigenous knowledge for rapidly assessing trends in biodiversity, a case study from Chiapas, Mexico' by A Hellier, A Newton, and S Ochoa Gaona, published in 1999. To the right of the paper list, there is a section titled 'Top tags in this group' with a cloud of tags including Mexico, biodiversity, indigenous communities, biotechnology, scientific communities, STS, agriculture, sustainability, representations of nature, economy, political discourse, development, social movements, political ecology, knowledge, anthropology of knowledge, indigenous knowledge, conservation, scientific disciplines, and environment.

By clicking on any of those tags and then clicking on any of the associated papers, one can enlarge its database on existing studies related to knowledge formation on natural resources by means of snowball sampling. Just click on any item in the database and see the "Related" section which points to similarly tagged research. Some items in the database also

include links to the abstract, pdf version of the article, as well as other interesting meta-information.

Dashboard
My Library
Papers
Groups
People
Papers
Search

The role of ethnopharmacology in drug development.

by N M Farnsworth

Biological Sciences - Miscellaneous Papers

Save reference to library Share

Overview

Related research:

Ciba Foundation symposium (1994)
Volume: 154, Pages: 2-11; discussion 11-21
ISSN: 0300-5205
PubMed: 2396237
Available from: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
or Find this paper at:

Abstract

There are 119 drugs of known structure that are still extracted from higher plants and used globally in allopathic medicine. About 74% of these were discovered by chemists who were attempting to identify the chemical substances in the plants that were responsible for their medical uses by humans. These 119 plant-derived drugs are produced commercially from less than 90 species of higher plants. Since there are at least 250,000 species of higher plants on earth, it is logical to presume that many more useful drugs will be found in the plant kingdom if the search for these entities is carried out in a logical and systematic manner. The first and most important stage in a drug development programme using plants as the starting material should be the collection and analysis of information on the use(s) of the plant(s) by various indigenous cultures. Ethnobotany, ethnomedicine, folk medicine and traditional medicine can provide information that is useful as a 'pre-screen' to select plants for experimental pharmacological studies. Examples are given to illustrate how data from ethnomedicine can be analysed with the aim of selecting a reasonable number of plants to be tested in bioassay systems that are believed to predict the action of these drugs in humans. The ultimate goal of ethnopharmacology should be to identify drugs to alleviate human illness via a thorough analysis of plants alleged to be useful in human cultures throughout the world. Problems and prospects involved in attaining this goal are discussed.

Related

Papers Groups

A role for physicians in ethnopharmacology and drug discovery
Michien Plaza in *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* (2006)
Save reference to library 25 readers

Ethnopharmacology and drug development.
N M Farnsworth in *Ciba Foundation symposium* (1994)
Save reference to library 2 readers

Ethnopharmacology and drug discovery
Shushan Patwardhan in *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* (2005)
Save reference to library 45 readers